

Dutch Spotted Sheep Society (DSSS) Inspection Criteria

15 September 2026

INSPECTIONS - All sheep will be subject to an official society veterinary inspection before the sale. Society representatives appointed by the society will assist with inspection administration. Vets will take direction from the Trustee in attendance on behalf of the Society. The inspector is empowered to disbar any animal which in his/her opinion does not meet the necessary standard. The decision of the inspector(s) will be final. Any animal failing inspection on structural or conformational criteria will not be allowed to be sold on the day of the sale, nor any other Society sale in the same year. Neither the Inspectors, the Society nor the Auctioneers will be liable to the owners of such animals or any other person or company for damage or any loss arising from rejection.

Sheep rejected from the sale must be marked with a YELLOW DOT ON THE LOIN and should be **IMMEDIATELY** moved well away from the sale's penning area and not further exhibited for sale; no advertising, promotion or sale of such a sheep is allowed on market premises.

Any sheep withdrawn from a sale, passing inspection and gone through the ring, but unsold will be allowed to enter subsequent Society sales but will have to be presented for inspection again.

ALL SHEEP MUST BE PENNED BEFORE THE INSPECTION COMMENCES

Lot Number: The lot number must correspond with the number entered in the catalogue. Animals without the correct identification will be rejected from the sale.

Disease: the animal is not suffering from any infectious disease.

Mobility: sheep should be mobile and sound with no feet and/or leg structural issues.

Teeth to be assessed whereby if any incisor teeth that are felt beyond the pad, as demonstrated by catching on fingers when running from the pad downwards, or when they are so far beyond the pad that they do not catch the finger, will be rejected.

When males are being sold, testicles should be of even size, move freely and be free from abnormalities. Ram lambs presented at Summer and Autumn Society Sales must have a minimum scrotal circumference of 28cm. Shearling Rams must have a minimum scrotal circumference of 33cm. Ram lambs presented at Spring Society Sales are not required to be measured.

When females are being sold, the udder should be correct and free from abnormalities.

Note: Animals which do not meet animal *welfare standards* such as lame animals will be rejected from that sale, however, are eligible to be entered for future sales in that year, provided they are inspected and pass inspection at that future sale.

Important Note: Although the animals have undergone a veterinary inspection according to the DSSS inspection criteria, it remains the responsibility of the party or parties purchasing stock at society sales to ensure they are satisfied with the quality and standard of the animals before engaging with any purchase.

Compliance: All sheep must be registered with the official Society “Dutch Spotted Sheep Society”. All sheep must be tagged in accordance to the rules of the Dutch Spotted Sheep Society and the relevant Government regulations. It is the owner’s responsibility for correctness of identity.